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REMARKS

Applicant has corrected the abstract to a length less than 150 words.

Claims 1-38 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 29 without prejudice; and amended claims 2 and 30. Claims 3-28 and 31-38 remain in the application without amendment.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 13-28 and 36-38 are allowed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indicated allowability of claims 2-12 and 30-35 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims to overcome the objection to these claims.

Applicant has rewritten dependent claims 2 and 30 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims 1 and 29 respectively. Accordingly, independent claims 2 and 30 as rewritten should be allowed in the next Office action, as well as claims 3-12 and 31-35 depending therefrom.

For the sake of expediting the allowance of the remaining claims, claims 1 and 29 have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, any of the objections and rejections applicable to these claims are moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of the response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 17-0026. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Dated: October 18, 2004
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Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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